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April 10, 2003

Via Electronic Submission

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communication
Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing
Aid-Compatible Telephones -- WT Docket No. 01-309

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter serves as notification that on April 10, 2003, Sprint Corporation, through its representatives, Scott Freiermuth and Kevin Butler, met with Joel Taubenblatt, Mindy Littell, Pat Forster, Joseph Levin and Greg Guice of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Jerome Stanshine of the Office of Engineering and Technology and Gene Fullano of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau to discuss the above-referenced proceeding.

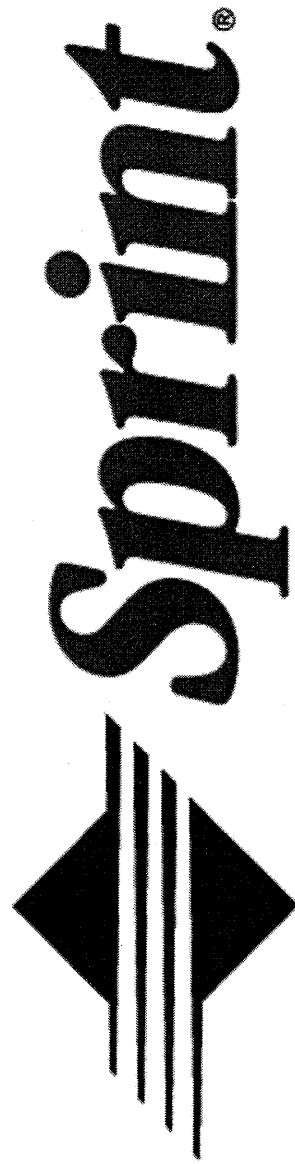
The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Sprint Corporation's positions in the above-referenced docket. A copy of the presentation material distributed at the meeting is attached hereto.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this letter is being electronically filed with your office. Please associate this letter with the file in the above-referenced matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Scott Freiermuth
Scott Freiermuth

cc: Joel Taubenblatt
Mindy Littell
Pat Forster
Joseph Levin
Greg Guice
Jerry Stanshine
Gene Fullano



Presentation to
Federal Communications Commission
April 10, 2003

Hearing Aid Compatibility



Two Objectives

1. Provide adequate information to hearing aid consumers that enables them to find a handset that meets their needs.
2. Encourage the wireless industry and hearing aid industry to pursue solutions that make hearing aids and wireless devices more compatible.



First Objective- Information

- Anecdotal information suggests that there are combinations of hearing aids and wireless devices that meet existing needs.
- Therefore, the first goal should be to gather this data, organize it, and disseminate it to hearing aid consumers. Sprint is committed to this effort.
- Sprint believes the Hearing Aid industry must also provide data concerning the immunity of hearing aids to consumers.
- Ideally, the FCC, the FDA, or both should disseminate this information to consumers to ensure that the information is unbiased and credible.



Second Objective- Solutions

1. Hearing Aid Solutions

- Immunization, shielding, filtering, digital circuitry, etc.
- Beyond FCC jurisdiction, but, nevertheless, an obvious and absolutely necessary component of the solution.
- To its credit, HIA and its industry has moved rather quickly from “modest immunity to RF radiation” to “a substantially higher degree of immunity.”
- This movement to increased hearing aid immunity has been undertaken without regulation.
- Sprint strongly supports this movement to greater hearing aid immunity and believes it is in recognition of the changing market and the RF-rich environment of today.
- Sprint further believes that hearing aid immunity information should be made available to consumers unconditionally.



Second Objective- Solutions

2. Wireless Device Solutions

A. Magnetic Coupling

- Sprint sells several handset models that produce a magnetic field potentially capable of T-coil coupling.
- Sprint looks forward to further technical analysis of Part 68 and the "T" portion of C63.19 to determine what is "T-coil compatible" as it applies to wireless.
- After this determination, Sprint and its handset vendors can identify handsets as "T-coil compatible."
- However, Sprint does not support a T-coil requirement for all wireless devices. Instead, Sprint supports a "product line" approach.
- Other forms of coupling should be allowed.



Second Objective- Solutions

2. Wireless Device Solutions

B. Interference Mitigation

- Complexity of issue begs careful thought not rash action.
- ANSI C63.19 has been criticized for various reasons by parties to this docket.
- ANSI itself states that it “would strongly encourage the formation of [an] incubator and steering committee” to guide final resolution of this issue.
- Likewise, Sprint supports a steering committee and a technical incubator to perform a “deep dive” into ANSI C63.19 to determine viability (correlation to end user experience) and potential fixes.



Second Objective- Solutions

2. Wireless Device Solutions

B. Interference Mitigation (con't)

- Incubator comprised of technicians and engineers from hearing aid and wireless industries. Small group(s), open discussion, diligent, balanced work.
- Technical Incubator charged with finding, understanding, measuring and mitigating (if feasible) sources of handset interference.
- Technical incubator to provide information to steering committee at regular intervals. Likewise Commission to receive regular reports.

